

Why the Women Demand a New Deal

Vote for the CITIZENS' LEAGUE TICKET



For Mayor
ROWLETT PAINE



Horace Johnson
For Commissioner



Chas. R. Shannon
For Commissioner



Thos. H. Allen
For Commissioner



John B. Edgar
For Commissioner

Good Government and Progress

One of the chief reasons why the women of Tennessee were granted the suffrage was the belief that they would lift public affairs out of the mire of politics.

It was believed that their influence would lead to the nomination of better candidates for office, to fair and orderly elections and to the choice of high-class men and women to fill the places of public trust.

Men who had lost faith in our elections and despaired of bringing about an improvement in machine politics, and who had, in utter disgust, even quit going to the polls, took heart again.

They saw in the women a vivifying and purifying element that would lead to a newer and better order of things.

Prominent leaders of the woman suffrage movement in Memphis immediately took steps to justify the hope that had been reposed in them.

The first and foremost demands of these women were that the criminal laws be strictly enforced, that the schools should be fostered and improved, that the public health should receive the most careful attention, that the streets should be well kept up, the parks properly policed, the Juvenile Court sustained, and, in short, that Memphis should be made a clean, orderly and pleasant place to live in and raise families.

These good women knew they could never attain these ends most dear to them through the old factional alignments, and they instinctively revolted at the slime and crookedness of machine politics.

They knew that their only hope of carrying out the things nearest to their hearts lay in electing nonfactional and nonpolitical candidates to office.

The platform of the Citizens' League is the embodiment of their demands. The Citizens' League candidates are the ideal men to carry out their purposes. It is perfectly natural, therefore, to find the great majority of the progressive women of Memphis lined up in this election for Rowlett Paine and his associates.

Mr. Paine and his colleagues are lined up with no faction in politics. They wear no man's collar. They have not sought the support of any of the factional leaders. They have never held office and have no political alliances or entanglements to embarrass them.

Mr. Williams' Record

It has been demonstrated many times in this campaign that Mr. Williams' record is exactly opposed to the chief claims of the Citizens' League candidates on the confidence of the people.

As Mr. Williams is running on his record and stands by every feature in it, coming forward day after day with page advertisements in the Memphis newspapers to defend it, he makes it the issue of the campaign.

He and his followers, therefore, have no ground for accusing his opponents of mud-slinging when this record is attacked.

Indeed, the Citizens' League would be unfaithful to its duty if it failed to accept the challenge and to show up the vulnerable points in his forty years' career as an officeholder and a holder of office.

Yesterday morning the career of J. J. Williams was given in three chapters in a page advertisement, and he is now seeking to write a fourth chapter as an officeholder at the expense of the people of Memphis.

The volume is too long drawn out to review in detail. Only its salient features can be touched in one article.

In the first chapter it is shown that every time he was reappointed or re-elected to office, it was because he had shown "marked executive ability." But it is not related what the reasons were for his defeat time and again in other elections.

The second chapter is a labored effort to explain why he piled up the tax rate to \$2.88 on the taxpayers—the highest tax rate ever known in Memphis. He takes credit for the entire sewer system, whereas, as a matter of fact, this system was started and had been largely developed many years before Mr. Williams became Mayor.

He throws bouquets at himself because he did not issue any bonds. As a matter of fact, it was impossible for him, under the law, to issue any general liability bonds. The Flippin bonds were then in existence. They were issued in 1879 and ran for thirty years. One of the conditions under which they were issued was that no other bonds of this kind could be issued until the Flippin bonds were matured and paid.

It was not until 1909, therefore, that the city could incur any further bonded indebtedness which would be a lien upon the property of the whole city. What Mr. Williams ascribes to him-

self as a virtue, therefore, was merely a matter of necessity.

The Citizens' League is not undertaking to defend the record of any administration. The merits and demerits of other administrations is not now the case in point.

It may be safely affirmed, however, that if the Citizens' League candidates are elected they will carry out their platform of economy and efficiency, and that there will be no tax rate of \$2.88 and no bond issue for which they are responsible that will not give value received for every dollar spent.

Squandering the Public Assets

No one has accused Mr. Williams of personal dishonesty. Everybody admits that he is a genial, likable fellow. But this does not go to his merit as a public officer. It was perhaps his weakness, as much as his desire, to profit by their assistance in building up his machine, that prompted Mr. Williams to give away the public franchises to the public service corporations during his administration as Mayor.

He attempts to justify his gratuities on the ground that the corporations were induced to make considerable expenditures here in return for the favors he granted them.

It is stated that the Illinois Central Railroad established its shops here in consideration of the 80-year franchise given to them on the river front. There is every reason to believe that the I. C. shops would have been located in Memphis in any event. This was the logical place for the plants that they have placed here, but if this franchise were the chief inducement for locating the shops in Memphis, the price paid was exorbitant. There is no denial of the fact that this franchise was worth \$10,000,000, as shown by the rise in value of the stock of the road as soon as it received the gift.

Shortly after receiving its franchise, the Belt Line road filed a mortgage for \$1,000,000, on the face of which it gave as the basis of its assets, "Valuable rights, privileges and franchises from the taxing district of Shelby County, under and by virtue of certain contracts in writing with the said taxing district, dated the 7th day of January, 1890, and the 6th day of November, 1890, and has acquired additional valuable rights, privileges and franchises from the City of Memphis under certain order of said city, passed and approved on the 5th day of June, 1902."

Each one of them has been chosen with reference to his fitness for the position which he is to fill.

With Paine as Mayor, the good women know that they have a general commander in charge who will have no purpose except to give them a clean and patriotic administration, for which they have been hoping and praying, and which they are in position for the first time to support with their ballots.

They know that with John B. Edgar in charge of the police this department will no longer be used as a political machine, but will be required to thoroughly police the city and make it so safe for women and girls that such hideous wrongs as were done to Hazel Bray and to Mary Thompson will never occur in the city again.

They know that with T. H. Allen as commissioner of Streets, Bridges and Sewers they will have a high-class engineer who knows his business, and will put our thoroughfares in such condition that the public will no longer be inconvenienced and endangered as they now are.

They are assured that with Chas. R. Shannon, a splendid public accountant, at the head of the Finance Department, order will be brought out of the chaos of the city's budgets and accounts.

They know that with Horace Johnson as commissioner of Public Utilities, Buildings and Grounds, they will have a competent and efficient public official who will devote himself solely to the duties of his office and not use it as a political asset.

They will have a guaranty that in their collective capacity these men will use every means within their power to support and improve the public schools of the people with no purpose in view except to secure the highest results in the education of our boys and girls.

In supporting the Citizens' League candidates, the women are carrying out the nonfactional purpose announced in the beginning, and if, in so doing, it becomes necessary for them to oppose with their votes a factional politician, who has never known anything except machine methods, it is an unfortunate fact that they cannot avoid.

Their main purpose is to secure a new deal and to support the constructive and progressive measures

The gift of such a franchise as this can be defended on no proper grounds. The same may be said of the other extravagant gifts to the public service corporations during the eight years of Mr. Williams' former administration. They have been enumerated so often that it is needless to give them here in detail again.

It must be said that the corporations repaid Mr. Williams by supporting him at every election and contributing to building up his machine in every conceivable way.

Mr. Williams' Ineligibility

Mr. Williams goes into a lengthy explanation of his removal to Mississippi and attempts to show how it was possible for him to hold his citizenship in Memphis and at the same time to transfer it to Horn Lake, Miss. There is nothing new in his argument. Every feature of it has been riddled by the best lawyers of Memphis. It does not require a lawyer, however, to know that Mr. Williams could not have a right to exercise his privileges as a citizen in two precincts, in two different states at the same time.

His very statement of the facts is a confession that he surrendered his citizenship in Memphis when he voted in an election in De Soto County in 1915, swearing that he had, at that time, been a citizen of De Soto County, Mississippi, for two years.

Williams makes the issue. The Citizens' League Ticket could have no better issue than Mr. Williams' record on which to make their campaign.

It is so vulnerable that no one except Mr. Williams would undertake to defend it in toto. His best friends would not attempt to uphold many of the acts of which he seems to be proud.

Paine's Constructive Platform

While Mr. Paine and his colleagues, however, reserve the right to criticize this record, and while they feel it their duty to show up its salient defects, they are not relying on this chiefly in seeking the support of the voters of Memphis. They rely chiefly on their constructive, progressive platform and their determination to give Memphis a clean and efficient government, free from the factionalism and the corrupt politics that has been such a curse to this city.

They believe that the people of Memphis demand and are going to have a new deal.